

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Claim 30 is added. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Claimed Invention

The present claims are drawn to, *inter alia*, methods for preventing **alpha particle radiation** from being emitted from radioactive material-containing waste material into an environment. A polymer is admixed with the waste material to encapsulate the radioactive material within the polymer wherein the polymer prevents alpha particle radiation from passing through the polymer.

The prior art of record teaches methods for disposing hazardous waste. However, the prior art of record does not disclose methods of preventing the emission of radiation as claimed in the present invention. The prior art does not teach the prevention of such radiation through the use of a polymer barrier surrounding radioactive material. Instead, the prior art teaches the formation of a solidified mass when combined with the hazardous waste. By solidifying the radioactive waste, migration of the waste is inhibited. However, immobilizing the waste does not achieve the same results of preventing the emission of radiation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

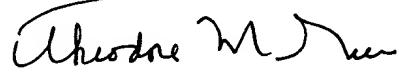
Conclusion

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-30 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



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